

Appl. No.: (not yet assigned)
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/018782)
Preliminary Amdt. Dated June 16, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable foam for a sheet, comprising a biodegradable foam to be molded into a sheet, obtained by mixing rice husk powder, starch and a biodegradable thermoplastic resin and foaming a mixture thereof, wherein

the foaming is carried out at an expansion ratio of 15 times or less.

2. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 1, wherein

the biodegradable foam for a sheet ~~contains~~ comprises 5 to 40 wt.% of rice husk powder and 5 to 30 wt.% of starch.

3. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein

the biodegradable thermoplastic resin is obtained by mixing two or more resin components ~~with~~ having different melting points.

4. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 3, wherein

in the biodegradable thermoplastic resin, one of said two or more resin components that has a resin with a low melting point has higher extensibility than one of said two or more resin components that has a resin with a high melting point.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~, Claim 1, comprising the steps of mixing rice husk powder, starch, a biodegradable thermoplastic resin, and water, and extrusion-foaming a mixture thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable molding, obtained by molding the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 into a sheet.

7. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable molding, obtained by molding the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 into a sheet, and then, re-molding the sheet to form a packaging container.

8. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the biodegradable molding according to Claim 7, comprising the steps of molding the biodegradable foam for a sheet into a sheet, and heating and pressurizing the sheet to produce a packaging container.

9. (New) The biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 2, wherein the biodegradable thermoplastic resin is obtained by mixing two or more resin components having different melting points.

10. (New) The biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 9, wherein in the biodegradable thermoplastic resin, one of said two or more resin components that has a low melting point has higher extensibility than one of said two or more resin components that has a high melting point.

11. (New) A process for producing the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 2, comprising the steps of mixing rice husk powder, starch, a biodegradable thermoplastic resin, and water, and extrusion-foaming a mixture thereof.

12. (New) A process for producing the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 3, comprising the steps of mixing rice husk powder, starch, a biodegradable thermoplastic resin, and water, and extrusion-foaming a mixture thereof.

13. (New) A process for producing the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 4, comprising the steps of mixing rice husk powder, starch, a biodegradable thermoplastic resin, and water, and extrusion-foaming a mixture thereof.

14. (New) A process for producing the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 9, comprising the steps of mixing rice husk powder, starch, a biodegradable thermoplastic resin, and water, and extrusion-foaming a mixture thereof.

15. (New) A biodegradable molding, obtained by molding the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 2 into a sheet.

16. (New) A biodegradable molding, obtained by molding the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 3 into a sheet.

17. (New) A biodegradable molding, obtained by molding the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 4 into a sheet.

18. (New) A biodegradable molding, obtained by molding the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 2 into a sheet, and then, re-molding the sheet to form a packaging container.

19. (New) A biodegradable molding, obtained by molding the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 3 into a sheet, and then, re-molding the sheet to form a packaging container.

20. (New) A biodegradable molding, obtained by molding the biodegradable foam for a sheet according to Claim 4 into a sheet, and then, re-molding the sheet to form a packaging container.